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Bob Palrud of Spokane, Wash. speaks with a fellow electric vehicle owner who is charging up at a station along Interstate 90, on Wednesday Sept. 14, 2022, in Billings, Mont.

Associated Press

Money approved for states to build car-charging network

Associated Press
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The Biden administration said Wednesday it has approved ambitious plans by 34 states and Puerto Rico to create a national electric vehicle charging network as the U.S. begins in earnest its transition away from gas-powered transportation.

The plans' approval means \$900 million can begin to flow to the states, which are tasked with using money from President Joe Biden's huge infrastructure law to form the network of chargers across the nation. Building out a reliable and convenient network is critical to spur more adoption of the technology, which

is itself key to reducing greenhouse emissions that cause global warming. The announcement came on the same day that Biden toured the North American International Auto Show in Detroit to tout the new law that includes tax incentives to purchase electric vehicles.

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What is behind the extreme heat these days on Aruba?



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2022 average RevPAR is lower than in 2019



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Papillon
RESTAURANT

Continued from Front

In practical terms, it means residents in some of those states could see charging stations start popping up along major travel corridors as early as next spring. Biden has a goal of ultimately installing 500,000 chargers across America and building a network of fast-charging stations across 53,000 miles of free-ways from coast to coast.

"Unlocking this type of funding is an enormous step in getting the charging network out, which is something we absolutely need if we're going to get full-scale deployment and adoption" of electric vehicles, said Nico Larco, director of Urbanism Next Center at the University of Oregon. "We don't have the capacity now to power anywhere near the fleet that we need."

Federal officials said they will continue to review the plans not approved in this round with the goal of approving all the states' EV roadmaps by Sept. 30.

Biden's infrastructure law provides \$5 billion over five years for the electric vehicle charging network.

The funding announced Wednesday is specifically for installing the most powerful chargers along "alternative fuel corridors" — major freeways that connect states — with the goal of eliminating the "range anxiety" that keeps many people from purchasing electric vehicles or using them on long road trips. Under proposed guidelines, states would be required to install at least one four-port



Jeannette Englehart of Billings, Mont. (left) stands outside her car speaking with fellow electric vehicle owner Bob Palrud of Spokane, Wash. at a charging station near Interstate 90, on Wednesday Sept. 14, 2022, in Billings, Mont.

fast-charging station every 50 miles on these corridors and ensure they are within one mile of an off-ramp. Some states received exemptions in rural areas for the 50-mile requirement, according to the approval letters. An additional \$2.5 billion in discretionary grants is also available to fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure in economically disadvantaged communities, rural areas and urban cores. And Biden's recently passed Inflation Reduction Act includes \$3 billion to spur electric vehicle adoption and charging accessibility in disadvantaged communities. Some rural states have raised serious concerns about the proposed federal requirements that accompany the money, in-

cluding the every 50-mile requirement.

State transportation officials in Wyoming joined with their counterparts in Idaho, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota last month to urge the Biden administration to ease the qualification requirements. The proposal to install a minimum of a four-port charging station, for example, would needlessly drive up costs in areas with few people and so far little demand for chargers, according to Wyoming Department of Transportation Director K. Luke Reiner.

EVs account for 0.1% of vehicle registrations in Wyoming and it would be "irresponsible and illogical" for rural states to spend now on a four port requirement, Reiner wrote in an August

letter to the U.S. Transportation Department.

"It would take more than two decades before a significant enough increase in statewide EV adoption would result in long queues at four-port stations," he wrote.

Wyoming's plan is still pending, while Montana's plan was among the 35 approved.

The Federal Highway Administration will review those concerns and determine the final guidelines now that the public comment period has closed. Federal officials are also considering a waiver of the "Buy America" provision of the infrastructure deal.

Officials in Nevada, for example, have expressed concern that they would

not be able to acquire charging stations that meet the American-made provisions and thus would be unable to start building out their piece of the network. Experts who have followed the evolution of electric vehicle adoption in the U.S. say having charging stations everywhere is important. "It's like the U.S. Postal Service. You need to be able to send mail everywhere, including places that are rural," said Jeremy Michalek, a professor at Carnegie Mellon University and director of the university's Vehicle Electrification Group.

"Even if that charger that's in that rural area isn't used as much every day, we still need the infrastructure to supply them.. We have gas stations that are used less in rural areas than they would be in a big city, but we need them for the demand."

Electric vehicle owners hailed the news and said they currently must take extra steps and precautions if they want to take their EVs on a long trip.

Bob Palrud of Spokane, Washington, says the small number of chargers in some rural areas of the West means he must carefully plot his travel routes to avoid running out of power. Palrud journeys three times yearly with his wife, Judy, to their cabin in Sheridan, Wyoming, and twice they've gotten so low on electricity coming through southeastern Montana that his vehicle automatically shut down some functions to conserve power. □

Associated Press

Judge temporarily blocks Ohio law banning most abortions

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A judge temporarily blocked Ohio's ban on virtually all abortions Wednesday, again pausing a law that took effect after federal abortion protections were overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in June.

The decision means abortions through 20 weeks' gestation can continue for now, in keeping with state law in place before the ban.

Hamilton County Judge Christian Jenkins' decision to grant a 14-day restrain-

ing order against the law came as part of a lawsuit brought by the ACLU of Ohio on behalf of abortion providers in the state. The clinics argue the law violates protections in the state Constitution guaranteeing individual liberty and equal protection. The suit also says the law is unconstitutionally vague.

The law was signed by Republican Gov. Mike DeWine in April 2019, and prohibits most abortions after the first detectable "fetal heartbeat." Cardiac ac-

tivity can be detected as early as six weeks into pregnancy, before many people know they're pregnant. The law had been blocked through a legal challenge, then went into effect after the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision was overturned.

DeWine's opponent in the November election, Democrat and abortion rights proponent Nan Whaley, called Wednesday's ruling "a victory, albeit a temporary one, for Ohio women." She said, "Ohio women

won't be safe until we have a pro-choice governor who doesn't seek to impose extreme views like government mandates against private health care decisions."

Abortion providers and their defenders have said the law has already created a host of hardships, including forcing a 10-year-old Ohio rape victim to travel to Indiana for an abortion.

The judge's decision is a blow for abortion opponents, who have been celebrating implementation

of the long-delayed restrictions since Roe was overturned.

Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati had anticipated the judge was leaning toward a pause after a hearing held last week, when he asked questions about the 10-year-old's case and suggested, "We should just be very honest about what we're talking about here."

"Let's just be very honest," the anti-abortion group wrote in a statement, "it is always, always best when LIFE is chosen. Always." □

3 Iranian citizens charged in broad hacking campaign in U.S.

By ERIC TUCKER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department said Wednesday that three Iranian citizens have been charged in the United States with ransomware attacks that targeted power companies, local governments and small businesses and nonprofits, including a domestic violence shelter.

The charges accuse the hacking suspects of targeting hundreds of entities in the U.S. and around the world, encrypting and stealing data from victim networks, and threatening to release it publicly or leave it encrypted unless exorbitant ransom payments were made. In some cases, the victims made those payments, the department said.

The Biden administration has tried to go after hackers who have held U.S. targets essentially hostage, often sanctioned or sheltered by adversaries. The threat gained particular prominence in May 2021 when a Russia-based hacker group was accused of conducting a ransomware attack on Georgia-based Colonial Pipeline, which disrupted gas supplies along the East Coast.



An American flag flies outside the Department of Justice in Washington, March 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Iran-based hackers have also been a focus over the last year, with the FBI last year thwarting a planned cyberattack on a children's hospital in Boston that was to have been carried out by hackers sponsored by the Iranian government. "The cyber threat facing our nation is growing more dangerous and complex every day," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a

statement accompanying the indictment unsealed Wednesday. "Today's announcement makes clear the threat is both local and global. It's one we can't ignore and it's one we can't fight on our own, either." The hackers named in Wednesday's indictment are not believed to have been working on behalf of the Iranian government but instead for their own

financial gain, and some of the victims were even in Iran, according to a senior Justice Department official who briefed reporters on the case on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the department. But the official said the activity, even if not directed by the Iranian government, exists because the regime permits hackers to largely

operate with impunity. In a related action Wednesday, the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control sanctioned 10 individuals and two entities affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps who it says have been involved in malicious cyber activities, including ransomware. The Treasury Department identified the three defendants in the Justice Department case as employees of a technology firm it says is affiliated with the Revolutionary Guard. John Hultquist, vice president for threat intelligence at the cybersecurity firm Mandiant, said his team has been tracking the Iranian actors for some time and assessed they are contractors for the Revolutionary Guard who have been moonlighting as criminal hackers.

The actions come amid an apparent stalemate in talks between the U.S. and Iran over the possible revival of a 2015 nuclear deal. Israel and some U.S. lawmakers of both parties are pushing the Biden administration to get tougher on Iran, calling the negotiations on Iran's nuclear program a failure. □

Study: 1-in-5 U.S. adults bet money on sports in past year

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)

— Nearly one in five U.S. adults bet money on sports over the past year, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The report from the Pew Research Center shows that 19% of adults surveyed said they had wagered on sports.

The most common way they did so was by placing bets with friends or family, such as a private betting pool, fantasy league or a casual bet; 15% of respondents said they bet in this manner.

Only 8% said they had made sports bets in person at a casino, racetrack or kiosk, and 6% reported having done so online. The survey did not ask if the on-

line sites were regulated by a government agency, or were unregulated offshore sites.

The survey's results indicate that the nascent U.S. legal sports betting industry, while growing rapidly, has plenty of room for expansion; more than 80% of all legal sports bets in the U.S. are made online.

As of last Thursday's kickoff to the NFL season, 31 states plus Washington D.C. offered legal sports betting, and several others will do so soon.

A record 46.6 million Americans say they plan to bet on the current NFL season, up 3% from last year, according to the American Gaming Association, the gambling industry's national trade group.

The center surveyed 6,034

adults from July 5-17. Its margin of error is plus or minus 2 percentage points.

More male respondents than female — 24% versus 15% — said they had bet on sports in some form in the past year. And of respondents under 50 years of age, 22% had bet on sports compared to 17% over 50.

The Pew Center said 27% of Black respondents and 24% of the Hispanic respondents reported having bet on sports, while 18% of white adults and 10% of Asian-Americans said they had.

It found no significant differences in sports betting by educational attainment or household income level: 18% of college graduates said they bet on sports in the past year, and 20% of



A customer makes a sports bet at the Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. on Sept. 6, 2022. In the fifth year of legal sports betting in most U.S. states, the action is speeding up due to microbetting, the ability to place a bet on an outcome as narrowly targeted as the result of the next pitch in baseball or the next play in football.

Associated Press

those without a college degree said they had done so.

Meanwhile, 22% of adults in the upper-income wage

bracket, 19% of middle-income and 19% of lower-income households reported making sports bets in the past year. □

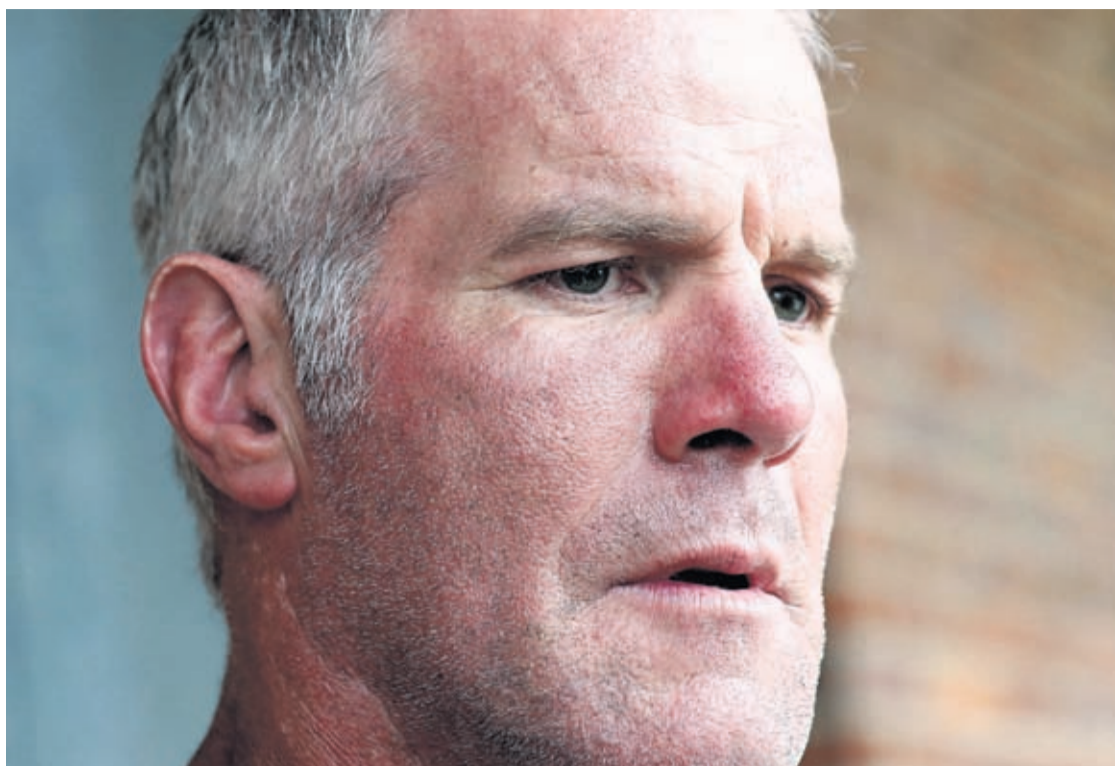
Texts: Mississippi governor knew of welfare payment to Favre

By **EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS**
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Newly revealed text messages show how deeply involved a Mississippi governor was in directing more than \$1 million in welfare money to retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre. Instead of the money going to help low-income families in one of the nation's poorest states, as intended, it was funneled through a nonprofit group to Favre and spent on a new volleyball facility at a university that the football star and the governor both attended.

The texts from 2017 show Republican Gov. Phil Bryant, who left office in 2020, was "on board" with the arrangement. The state is suing Favre and others, alleging they misspent millions of dollars in welfare money. The director of the nonprofit has pleaded guilty to criminal charges in Mississippi's largest public corruption case in decades.

The texts were in court documents filed Monday in state court by an attorney for the nonprofit known as the Mississippi Community Education Center. The messages between Favre



Former NFL quarterback Brett Favre speaks to the media in Jackson, Miss., Oct. 17, 2018.

Associated Press

and the center's executive director, Nancy New, included references to Bryant.

The texts showed discussion between Favre and New about arranging payment from the Mississippi Department of Human Services through the nonprofit to Favre for speaking engagements, with Favre then saying he would direct the money to the volleyball facility at the University of

Southern Mississippi.

Favre played football at the university in Hattiesburg before going to the NFL in 1991, and his daughter started playing on the volleyball team there in 2017. According to court documents, Favre texted New on Aug. 3, 2017: "If you were to pay me is there anyway the media can find out where it came from and how much?"

New responded: "No, we

never have had that information publicized. I understand you being uneasy about that though. Let's see what happens on Monday with the conversation with some of the folks at Southern. Maybe it will click with them. Hopefully."

Favre responded: "Ok thanks."

The next day, New texted Favre: "Wow, just got off the phone with Phil Bryant! He is on board with us! We will

get this done!"

Favre responded: "Awesome I needed to hear that for sure."

Attorneys for Favre did not immediately respond to a phone message Wednesday from The Associated Press.

In a July 11 court filing, New's attorney wrote that Bryant directed her to pay \$1.1 million in welfare money to Favre through the education center for "speaking at events, keynote speaking, radio and promotional events, and business partner development." In July, a Bryant spokesperson said allegations that the governor improperly spent the money are false and that Bryant had asked the state auditor to investigate possible welfare fraud.

Bryant served two terms as governor and could not run again in 2019 because of term limits. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

New and her son, Zachary New, who helped run the nonprofit, pleaded guilty in April to charges of mispending welfare money. They await sentencing and have agreed to testify against others. □

Officials probing whether Northeastern explosion was staged



Police and emergency personnel respond the scene of an explosion in Boston, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022.

Associated Press

By **MICHAEL BALSAMO and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER**
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Federal officials are examining whether the employee who reported an explosion at Northeastern University may have lied to investigators and staged the incident, law enforcement officials said Wednesday.

Investigators identified inconsistencies in the employee's statement and became skeptical because his injuries did not match wounds typically consistent with an explosion, said one official.

The officials could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on

condition of anonymity.

The Northeastern staff member said late Tuesday the hard plastic case exploded on the campus in Boston, causing minor injuries, according to authorities.

The case contained a rambling note that railed against virtual reality and also referenced Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, a law enforcement official said. No explosive materials were found and they do not believe the package was sent through the U.S. Postal Service, the official said.

The official described the case as a "Pelican-style" case. Pelican is a company that makes hard cases designed to protect sensitive equipment.

A spokesperson for the FBI

office in Boston declined to comment Wednesday, saying the investigation is "still very active and fluid." Northeastern in a message posted on its website Wednesday said the campus is safe.

"Events such as the incident that took place on our Boston campus last night can create or heighten anxiety for many of us," said the post, credited to Provost David Madigan and Chancellor Kenneth Henderson. "We would like to underscore what was communicated to our community last night: Multiple law enforcement agencies have determined that the campus is safe and secure."

The campus opened normally for classes and other activities Wednesday. Counseling and other sup-

port services were made available for students, faculty and staff.

Despite reassurances from the school, many students remain concerned.

"Every time I go to a class or dining hall or anything in general, people are just talking about what's going on and what went on yesterday," student Lisbeth Martinez said Wednesday. "A lot of people are still anxious and obviously scared of the situation."

The package delivered to Holmes Hall detonated just after 7 p.m. Tuesday when a staff member opened it, the university had said in a statement. The staff member, a 45-year-old man, was taken to the hospital with minor injuries to his hand, police said. No name was made public. □

Woman with toy gun grabs trapped savings from Beirut bank

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A woman accompanied by activists and brandishing what she said was a toy pistol broke into a Beirut bank branch on Wednesday, taking \$13,000 from her trapped savings.

Sali Hafez told the local Al-Jadeed TV that she needed the money to fund her sister's cancer treatment. She said she had repeatedly visited the bank to ask for her money and was told she could only receive \$200 a month in Lebanese pounds. Hafez said the toy pistol belonged to her nephew.

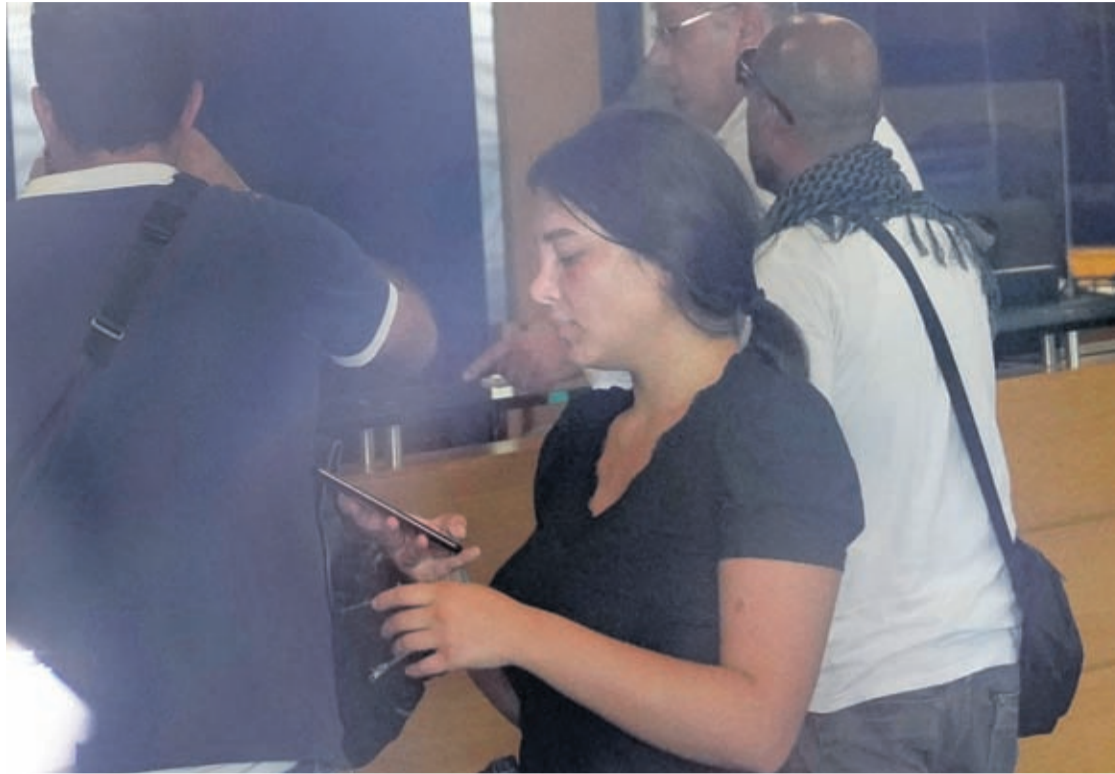
"I had begged the branch manager before for my money, and I told him my sister was dying, didn't have much time left," she said in the interview. "I reached a point where I had nothing else to lose."

Lebanon's cash-strapped banks have imposed strict limits on withdrawals of foreign currency since 2019, tying up the savings of millions of people. About three-quarters of the population has slipped into poverty as the tiny Mediterranean country's economy continues to spiral.

Hafez and activists from a group called Depositors' Outcry entered the BLOM Bank branch and stormed into the manager's office. They forced bank employees to hand over \$12,000 and the equivalent of about \$1,000 in Lebanese pounds.

Hafez said she had a total of \$20,000 in savings trapped in that bank. She said she had already sold many of her personal belongings and had considered selling her kidney to fund her 23 year-old sister's cancer treatment.

Nadine Nakhal, a bank customer, said the intruders "doused gasoline everywhere inside, and took out a lighter and threatened to light it." She said the woman with the pistol threatened to shoot the manager if she did not receive her money.



Lebanese Sali Hafez, center, accompanied by activists looks at her phone after breaking into a BLOM Bank branch brandishing what she later said was a toy pistol and taking \$13,000 from her trapped savings account, in Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

Hafez said in a live-streamed video she posted on her Facebook account that she did not intend to do harm. "I did not break into the bank to kill anyone or set the place on fire," she said. "I am here to get my rights."

Hafez was celebrated as a hero across social media in Lebanon, as many in the small crisis-hit country struggle to make ends meet and retrieve their savings. She encouraged others to take similar action to reclaim their savings.

Some of the activists entered the bank with Hafez, while others staged a protest at the entrance. Hafez eventually left with cash in a plastic bag, witnesses said.

Security forces standing outside arrested several of the activists, including a man carrying what looked like a handgun. It was not immediately clear if this was also a toy gun.

Meanwhile, Alaa Khorchid who heads the Depositors' Outcry protest group said that a man communicating and coordinating with the group broke into a bank in the mountainous town of Aley to retrieve his trapped savings. Local media reported that the man entered the Bank-Med branch alone with a shotgun without any shells loaded, but was unable to retrieve his savings before he was apprehended.

Both incidents occurred weeks after a food delivery driver broke into another bank branch in Beirut and held 10 people hostage for seven hours, demanding tens of thousands of dollars in his trapped savings. Most hailed him as a hero.

"There is no government, no economic recovery plan, and little reserves left," Khorchid told the AP, adding that people have no choice but to "take matters into their own hands".

"These people worked for decades, but not for the rulers to build palaces while they can't afford a bottle of medicine."

On Wednesday night, activists closed a major road in Beirut outside a police barracks holding two activists who stormed the bank earlier in the day with Hafez. The protesters demanded the immediate release of the two men.

Lebanon has scrambled for over two years to implement key reforms in its decimated banking sector and economy. It has so far failed to reach an agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a recovery program that would unlock billions of dollars in international loan and aid to make the country viable again. Its government has struggled to function in a caretaker capacity since May, and its recently elected Parliament remains deeply divided. □

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Philippine leader says calling his father dictator 'wrong'

By **JIM GOMEZ**

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said it's wrong to describe his late father as a dictator and that his brutal martial law rule in the 1970s was not meant to prolong his grip on power comments that were immediately rejected by human rights activists.

The namesake son of the former president who was ousted in a 1986 pro-democracy uprising also denied in a TV interview aired late Tuesday that he and his family were whitewashing history.

It was the first time since he took office in June that Marcos Jr. has addressed some of the controversial issues that have hounded him and his family. A transcript of the interview on new broadcasting company ALLTV by TV host and actress Toni Gonzaga, who backed Marcos Jr.'s candidacy, was released by his press secretary.

Asked if he has been affected by media references to him as a dictator's son, Marcos Jr. replied: "No. It would hurt me if they were right, but they're wrong."

"How many times have I been here in this room where he was in consultation with different groups?"



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. smiles after he delivers his first state of the nation address in Quezon city, Philippines, Monday, July 25, 2022.

Associated Press

he said in the interview at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, where his father held office after rising to the presidency in 1965. "A dictator does not consult. A dictator just says 'this is what you will do, whether you like it or not.'" The elder Marcos placed the Philippines under martial law in 1972, a year before his term was to expire. He padlocked Congress and newspaper offices, ordered the arrest of many political opponents and activists and ruled by de-

creed. Marcos Jr. defended that decision by repeating his father's justification that martial law was crucial to fight growing Muslim and communist insurgencies. "It was necessary to in my father's view at the time to declare martial law because a war was really raging already at the time," he said.

Renato Reyes of Bayan, an alliance of left-wing groups, said the newly elected president's defense of the martial law declaration nearly 50 years ago was a

"big lie," which has been discredited by facts.

"Marcos Sr. used martial law to scrap the elections, extend his term, dissolve Congress and centralize power unto himself, making him dictator from 1972 to 1986," Reyes said. That was not defending government but making government "your personal fiefdom." Asked why his father's basis for declaring martial rule was not widely disseminated, Marcos Jr. said, "The government fell. So, the victors wrote this his-

tory."

Opponents of the Marcos dictatorship had also said that violent incidents in the early 1970s, including the ambush of a convoy supposedly carrying then defense chief Juan Ponce Enrile, were staged to provide the justification for martial law.

Enrile later broke off from Marcos and together with other rebellious military and police officials backed a massive 1986 "People Power" uprising that toppled Marcos and drove him and his family to U.S. exile. The massive protests awed the world and became a harbinger of change in authoritarian regimes worldwide.

Marcos Jr. denied he and his family were trying to revise history but acknowledged without elaborating "the problems that happened, the abuses that occurred, like in any war." He said he can prove what actually happened, saying "we have video, we have photographs, we have records," but did not go into detail.

The ousted president died in exile in Hawaii three years later without admitting any wrongdoing, including accusations that he and his family amassed an estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion while he was in power. □

Airstrikes kill 10 in Ethiopia's Tigray capital, doctor says

By **CARA ANNA**

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)

— Two airstrikes hit the capital of Ethiopia's Tigray region Wednesday morning, killing 10 people, many of them first responders, the director of the city's flagship Ayder Referral Hospital said, as Ethiopia's government gave no sign of taking up the Tigray forces' offer to stop fighting and pursue talks.

The target in Mekele "was a residential neighborhood," Kibrom Gebrelassie told The Associated Press. "Three of the victims need urgent major surgery, in the face of (a) shortage of medicines."

The first airstrike wounded

two people but the second was deadly, with rescuers among those killed, Kibrom said.

The death toll could climb as more patients reach the

hospital, another doctor said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

In a weekend statement to

mark Ethiopia's new year, the Tigray leadership said they were ready to participate in an "immediate" cessation of hostilities with Ethiopian forces leading to a comprehensive ceasefire, and even welcomed mediation led by the African Union, a significant shift.

But Ethiopia's federal government is yet to publicly respond amid reports of more talks between the two sides in Djibouti.

With independent media, human rights groups and monitors barred from Tigray, and with most basic services like internet severed, it is challenging to assess the situation on the ground.

Several airstrikes have hit Mekele since fighting resumed between Tigray forces and Ethiopian ones in late August, shattering a period of relative calm since late March.

That calm had allowed more humanitarian aid to reach the long-blockaded Tigray region, but those deliveries have now been halted, according to the United Nations. Deliveries to conflict-affected parts of the neighboring Amhara region have also stopped. Since the conflict broke out in November 2020, tens of thousands are believed to have been killed and millions displaced in the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions. □



In this image made from video, medics carry the body of a dead or injured victim of an airstrike in Mekele, capital of the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

“Ban Lanta y Planta” with a mission to plant 10.000 native plants all around Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Last weekend, minister of Nature, Mr. Ursell Arends went and planted to give his contribution to the project Ban Lanta y Planta, which translates to “Let’s go and plant”. The foundation has a goal to plant ten thousand plants around Aruba, to help restore Aruba’s natural ecosystem.

According to a press release, this is a great initiative to promote Aruba’s native plants, as well as our flora and fauna in general. The plants were planted in such a way that when they are watered in the afternoon, the water goes directly to the roots, to make sure the plants grow in a sustainable way. The foundation also has a schedule where volunteers can help water the plants, three times per week. This is an efficient way to make sure that the plants can sur-

vive in the hot weather of Aruba.

“It is a pleasure to have had the opportunity to spend a morning in nature, where value is given to our native plants of Aruba, and value is given to our environment”, minister Arends said. “Because when nature prospers, us as human beings also prosper.”

Minister Arends sends words of gratitude and admiration to the foundation and its entire team, as well as every volunteer who helped under the hot sun.

For more information on how to become a volunteer, please contact the foundation Ban Lanta y Planta through the social media. Together we can help Aruba’s nature recover and mitigate the effects of climate change.



After two years, Department of Public Health stops Covid updates

ORANJESTAD – Covid is here to stay, and will continue transmitting from one person to another for a much longer period. This is why the advice to the com-

munity is to continue being aware and protect themselves and those around them who may be more vulnerable for Covid.

The vaccine plays a very important role in the process to control the pandemic, and the vaccine will continue playing an important role to keep the

Covid cases low. In Aruba for a month already the Covid cases are stable, as is our medical care.

It is the opinion of the De-

partment of Public Health (DVG) that it's time to stop with the weekly updates as well, and to continue monitoring Covid internally, like any other infectious disease.

In case DVG begins observing an increase in the amount of Covid cases, as always DVG will alert and inform the community regarding any developments right away.

The advice to the community is to continue being careful and to take the vaccine.



ATSA – CHTA Education Foundation Caribbean Supercharged Service Program OVER-SOLD!

Oranjestad - Luigi Heredia, President, Aruba Timeshare Association ATSA is thrilled "We are so excited by the incredible numbers of registrations from 30 companies and individuals across the spectrum of the Aruba tourism product – WOW! OVERSOLD!

Our planned 10 day workshops has grown to 14-days to allow most applicants a seat.

ATSA members have an appetite for developing their teams, and we knew AHATA, AF&BA, VRPA members, and individuals, shared that belief. Thank You to everyone who has registered and received confirmation from us. Apologies to the people we disappointed, hopefully there will be more opportunities in future."

Karolin Troubetzkoy, Chairwoman, CHTA Education Foundation congratulated

ATSA "the Education Foundation congratulates the ATSA Executive Board who have personally invested time, energy and resources to develop and deliver an energetic, grass-roots promotional campaign for Caribbean Supercharged Training in Aruba. Their inclusion of everyone is admirable as the 14-days of upcoming training, endorsed by AHATA, shows. The Education Foundation looks forward to welcoming each of the 330 participants!"

The Education Foundation trainers Louise & Suzanne are excited to be back with the tremendous conference team at La Cabana Beach Resort & Spa. La Cabana is generously supporting this training initiative, kudos and thanks to them.

ATSA in collaboration with the Education Foundation is offering full-day work-



shops; 5 for Strengthened Supervisors, 2 of Happy Housekeeping!, 4 of F&B Knowledge and Communication and 3 of F&B

Enhanced Dining Experience tips and techniques. Each day is full. Registration is closed. □

Defense trains emergency response with security partners on Windward Islands



The Ministry of Defense will hold a hurricane relief exercise on the Windward Islands from September 15 to September 27. Hereby they will also practice with various local security partners on the islands. Defense trains this so that the military can be deployed quickly and effectively in the event of an actual hurricane threat.

After the relocations to Sint Maarten, Saba and Sint Eustatius, small activities will take place on a rotational basis, spread over the various islands. The units will also use their stay to become more familiar with all three islands and the relevant partners located there, such as government organizations, non-governmental organizations and companies that play an important role in emergency relief.

The vast majority of the military personnel is already present in the Caribbean Region and include amongst others of units from the Marine Squadron Carib (Aruba), the naval vessel Zr. Ms. Pelikaan, FRISC vessels and several other support units from both the Fleet and Marines. In addition, a marine detachment is permanently present on Sint Maarten.

By training on the Windward Islands, in the event of an actual hurricane threat, it is possible to immediately after passage provide emergency aid and rescue people in need. In such a situation, the military can also support the civil authorities and contribute to public order and security. □

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Bring out the Chopsticks, #SushiMonday is around the corner!

Magic Sushi by Charlie, a leading Sushi bar in Aruba, is joining forces with The Bulldog Aruba to unveil a weekly, 2 Hour (!) All-You-Can-Eat Concept, with as a cherry on top, a never-before-tasted Sushi Roll – The Bulldog Booze Roll (+18). The 1st Edition of this event will take place on Monday, September 5th at The Bulldog Aruba, Located in the beautiful center of Paseo Herencia Mall in Palm Beach, across the street of the Holiday Inn hotel.

For the Monday Night Sushi Night they created an innovative roll to provide our guests with a one-of-a-kind Sushi option to enjoy in our scenic environment. Ideal for both those new to sushi or real connoisseurs, The Bulldog Booze Roll takes the iconic Amsterdam vibe and pairs it with Japanese tradition.

Curious about our Menu?

You can find our Sushi-Menu on the Facebook or Instagram page of @TheBulldogAruba.



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*Live Shows are depending on the Paseo Herencia Mall Schedule



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The Bulldog Aruba

- Reservations are not necessary but highly appreciated
- Each item of the all-you-can-eat menu consist 5 pieces of sushi
- Max. 2 All-you-can-eat items per round per person
- You can order unlimited all-you-can-eat items from our menu for 2 hours
- Last order can be made 15 minutes before timeslot ends
- Chef specials and appetizers are not included in the all you can eat sushi price
- New orders can only be placed if the previous items are consumed
- Waste of food is not appreciated, order as much as you can eat,
- Leftovers due to overorder can be charged separately.

See You Then!



AHATA: 2022 average RevPAR is lower than in 2019



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AHATA member timeshares: Divi Aruba Phoenix, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Village Golf, La Cabana, Marriott Ocean Club, Marriott Surf Club, The Mill Resort. AHATA member vacation rentals: Aramis Real Estate, Aruba's Life Vacation Residences, Aruba Happy Rental, Casiola Aruba, Cobalt Blue Fusion (Blue, Azure), Ford Property Management, Turibana Plaza, Santa Lucia Landhuis. □

August	2022	2019	% change
Rooms	5,239	4,850	8.0%
ARN	161,234	150,357	7.2%
ORN	132,781	130,633	1.6%
OCC	82.4%	86.9%	-5.2%
ADR	\$289.64	\$237.87	21.8%
RevPAR	\$238.52	\$206.66	15.4%

August YTD	2022	2019	% change
ARN	1,258,088	1,184,835	6.2%
ORN	930,475	1,023,093	-9.1%
OCC	74.0%	86.3%	-14.3%
ADR	\$310.05	\$285.54	8.6%
RevPAR	\$229.31	\$246.56	-7.0%

Oranjestad - The Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association has published the latest hotel performance data reporting that in August 2022 Aruba hotels continued to recover strongly, however the average RevPAR of the first 8 months still stayed below 2019 levels.

ADR: In comparison to 2019, the average daily rate (for occupied rooms) increased by 22% to \$289.64. RevPAR: The revenue per available room was \$238.52, which is a 15% increase over 2019.

Year-to-date 2022:

Occupancy: The average occupancy for the first eight months of 2022 was 74%, which is 14% lower than in 2019.

ADR: The average daily

	Occupancy Forecast	Recovery compared to 2019
September	72%	90%
October	74%	97%
November	77%	92%
2022	75%	88%

rate (for occupied rooms) increased by 9% to \$310.05. RevPAR: The revenue per available room was \$229.31, a 7% decrease from 2019.

Timeshare:

AHATA's Timeshare properties experienced a 86% occupancy rate in August.

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

Oranjestad — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean.

Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia - Portuguese version and Spanish

version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands.

The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the PapiCristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and

which was taken east by the thousands of cable - Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east.

I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape

Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, PapiCristang, PatuáMacaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

Anonymous Source: Dushi Aruba



What is behind the extreme heat these days on Aruba?

The Foundation for Catholic Schools in Aruba, SKOA, showed worry for the extreme heat recently, by implementing a variety of measures: no gym lessons outdoors, allowing all students to drink enough liquid, and even reducing the duration of the school day.

The 46 schools under the foundation receive a letter to implement these and other measures, director Anuesca Baly told news site Caribisch Netwerk.

The cold wind that normally blows from the sea is not coming these days. Residents in the area near the dump at Parkietenbos have also been complaining that the bad smells stays in the area. Some of these residents flee their homes because they cannot tolerate the situation, according to an article by journalist Sharina Henriquez on Caribisch Netwerk. Even neighborhoods that normally don't suffer from this problem are seeing residents complaining that they can smell Parkietenbos.

Meanwhile, Jonathan van der Linden, Maintenance Specialist at electricity company NV Elmar,

explained to our reporter that the company is dealing with interruptions in their grid, and in this, the recent heat plays a big role.

Last week, use of electricity on the island was higher than ever before. The average peak electricity-generating company WEB is 135 megawatt, but last week it was 150 megawatt. "This is indeed because of an increase in energy consumption because of the heat", spokesperson Asja Dongen commented. "Many people are saying that this will be good for us because it will generate more income, but this is not the case."

It costs more for the company to let the motors produce more energy, which means additional investment and more fuel, which is not a sustainable solution. "For this reason, always, even during hot days, be mindful of energy consumption", Dongen highlighted.

It was also noted that these days, around 9pm, the peak is high because everyone goes home and turn on their air conditioning. There are also more electric vehicles, thus the demand is high. During the last week, Elmar experienced a never-before seen

peak. According to Van Der Linden, their capacity is 256 megawatt which means there is enough capacity – but here and there, interruptions can occur. These are things that can happen anywhere on the island, thus do not affect one area more than the other.

But with temperatures feeling like 36 to 40 degrees Celsius at noon, it's almost impossible to find refuge anywhere other than indoors with air conditioning. Air conditioning is also turned on during the whole night in most Aruban bedrooms – even when the sun goes down around 7:30pm, the temperature remains at around 30 degrees Celsius.

Criticism on weather department

"For three years that I've been working as director, each year a letter like that is sent out, with precautionary measures. Particularly for the five schools that do not have air conditioning", Baly told Caribisch Netwerk. "September is always this hot."

But this hot? Baly didn't see any warnings regarding the heat, which for her was a reason to pick up the

phone and call the weather department. "I follow the weather department of Curaçao, which previously had already warned about the extreme heat. I wanted to know how this was going to be for Aruba."

Aruban media was already on it. "Incomprehensible that the weather warnings between these weather institutes are different while the islands are so close to each other", according to a local news site. This generated negative reactions regarding the skills of meteorologist David Barkmeyer, director of Aruba's weather department. Noticeable were the attacks and comments regarding his Curaçaoan background. This happened also last June, when the forecast for storm Bonnie was still acceptable.

"Everything is on our website, thus that's where people need to go", Barkmeyer said. "This is very normal. The hottest time of the year, and it can last until the beginning of October."

But why are people widely complaining right now? He doesn't have an explanation. "People are also calling us a lot. It's very hot,

indeed, we did warn about this. But it's not abnormal." If the extreme heat the last few days is because of climate change, this cannot be said directly. "No, not really, because the climate has been changing for 50 years already." Barkmeyer explained that these days it feels so hot because of the strength of the sun's rays: 12 on the UV index. This is so high, that the advice for this is to remain indoors.

Something that is also common during this time is the lack of wind, because weather disturbances in the area suck the wind away. Last week, hurricane Earl was to blame.

The cold wind that comes from the sea, which makes our desert island bearable, now feels more like a hair-dryer. "The wind is hot because it's coming from the southwest, from the South American continent." Barkmeyer explains what a lot of residents do now know: despite the fact that the ABC islands are surrounded by the sea, the weather is determined by the mainland. "If we were two to three degrees more north west, it would be fresher. Then we would have a truly sea weather."



CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 44 Clash
1 Yard tool 45 Spot
5 Terre Haute's river
11 Farm team
12 Broad street
13 Pub orders
14 Dock worker
15 Pledge of Allegiance noun
17 Cruise setting
18 Steer clear of
22 Prepared
24 Derisive look
25 Caribou's kin
26 Quarterback Manning
27 Vote in
30 Thicket
32 Surgery tool
33 Pound sound
34 Knot-tying
38 Red Cross location
41 Gumbo base
42 Penitent person
43 Floral rings

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
1 Stadium sound
2 Auto bar
3 Mementos
4 Followed as a result
5 Mural spot
6 Steers clear of
7 Sailing signal
8 Plus
9 Take to court
10 That woman
16 Howl at the moon
19 Counterfeit videos
20 Salon supplies
21 Buffalo's lake
22 Lively folk dance
23 Singer Fitzgerald
28 Sidewalk stuff
29 See the world
30 Compact, e.g.
31 Meadow-lark's cousin
35 Quite uncommon
36 Hold tightly
37 Relaxed
38 Yak it up
39 Pilot's guess: Abbr.
40 Word of denial

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38	39	40				41			
42						43			
44						45			

9-15

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three E's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

W I F B O I W X H A H Q V P G V H Q
S Q Y H Q Q U K Q H Q G U W Y U K Q
U O P Q S Q I Q Q A S V M Q G .

— U Q H I B N I V U J K Q U U
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE STRANGER THAN FICTION, BECAUSE FICTION HAS TO BE CONVINCING, AND LIFE DOESN'T. — NEIL GAIMAN

Millennial Money: Get kids set to invest with these accounts

By ELIZABETH AYOOLA of NerdWallet

During my late teens, my mom handed me two worn, blue passport-size books with details of my custodial investment accounts. I had no clue what to do with them, but it didn't matter, because the accounts were empty anyway. Perhaps for the best, because I'm almost certain my assets wouldn't have stood a chance.

I am now a mother, have opened a custodial account for my 4-year-old son, and often think about how I can prepare him to take control of his investments in the future. If you're looking for ways to prep your child for investing, an experienced parent and financial experts have some ideas.

SHARE MONEY VALUES EARLY

Preparation begins as early as possible when it comes to teaching your kids about money, says Cristina Livadary, a certified financial planner and co-founder of Mana Financial Life Design in Marina Del Rey, California. No matter your child's age, you can start by talking openly about finances and sharing your values around money.

Something I've started doing with my son is teaching him the value of giving, by encouraging him to give toys away before buying new ones. An approach Livadary recommends to teach money values is assigning what she refers to as a "job description" to each dollar you give your kids.

"One of my favorite things is taking the dollars and really splitting them up in ways that are really aligned to values," says Livadary. "So, let's say you get \$3 a week \$1 for giving, another dollar is for saving, and the other dollar you get to spend."

TEACH INVESTING BASICS

A custodial brokerage account is an investing account opened by a parent or guardian for a minor until they reach the age of majority.



In this Dec. 26, 2020 file photo, children are silhouetted against a pond as they look at Christmas lights at a park in Lenexa, Kan. Associated Press

If your child has a job with taxable income, you could also help them open a custodial IRA or Roth IRA.

A good thing about custodial accounts is that although kids don't control the accounts until they reach the age of majority, you can show them what's happening.

Michael Costello, a retired consumer products executive based in Miami, and a parent of three, says he prepared his now-grown kids to manage their custodial accounts by teaching them about budgeting and saving early. He also let them view their investment accounts and watch them grow, and he facilitated investing discussions with them.

"We ended up having a lot of conversations about why do you do long-term holding? What should you look at? What are ETFs versus regular stocks? What do bonds do?" he says.

Teaching his kids about exchange-traded funds and other assets made him confident about them having access to the custodial accounts when they turned 18.

There are many ways to teach your kids about the power of investing. Helping them understand what compound interest can do for every dollar they invest could motivate them to invest for the long term.

If you think they're ready to start trading, some brokers offer youth accounts that let teens start investing with parental oversight.

SET GOALS AND TEACH DE-

LAYED GRATIFICATION

Delayed gratification is an important adaptive skill parents can teach kids for them to manage custodial accounts, says Anna N'Jie-Konte, a CFP and founder of Dare to Dream Planning in New York City.

Since custodial accounts are brokerage accounts that can be tapped into at any time, it's important kids view their investments as long-term money that can buy them flexibility and options in the future, she says. This could help them refrain from spending it now.

"I think one of the superpowers of people that are really financially successful and just successful period, is when they have the ability to say, 'I recognize that I want this right now, but it's going to be so much better if I wait and if I keep at it,'" she says.

But for delayed gratification to work, it's important to have financial goals and a plan, which I didn't have as a teenager, and why I think investments in my custodial account wouldn't have lasted long.

For the record, my financial plan was to become a rich actress and fund all of my lifetime expenses that way. When setting financial goals with your kids, it's fine to set both long- and short-term ones.

Why? Some people just aren't inspired by financial goals that are too far into the future, says Livadary.

"Sometimes it's buying a house in the next three years, but sometimes it's taking a vacation ... and that's OK. □

TikTok search results riddled with misinformation: Report

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

TikTok may be the platform of choice for catchy videos, but anyone using it to learn about COVID-19, climate change or Russia's invasion of Ukraine is likely to encounter misleading information, according to a research report published Wednesday.

Researchers at NewsGuard searched for content about prominent news topics on TikTok and say they found that nearly 1 in 5 of the videos automatically suggested by the platform contained misinformation. Searches for information about "mRNA vaccine," for instance, yielded five videos (out of the first 10) that contained misinformation, including baseless claims that the COVID-19 vaccine causes "permanent damage in children's critical organs."

Researchers looking for information about abortion, the 2020 election, the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, climate change or Russia's invasion of Ukraine on TikTok found similarly misleading videos scattered among more accurate clips.

The amount of misinformation and the ease with which it can be found is especially troubling given TikTok's popularity with young people, according to Steven Brill, founder of News-



The TikTok app logo appears in Tokyo on Sept. 28, 2020.

Associated Press

Guard, a firm that monitors misinformation.

TikTok is the second most popular domain in the world, according to online performance and security company Cloudflare, exceeded only by Google.

Brill questioned whether ByteDance, the Chinese company that owns TikTok, is doing enough to stop misinformation or whether it deliberately allows misinformation to proliferate as a way to sow confusion in the U.S. and other Western democracies. "It's either incompetence or it's something worse," Brill told The Associated Press.

TikTok released a statement in response to NewsGuard's report noting that its community guidelines prohibit harmful misinformation and that it works to promote authoritative con-

tent about important topics like COVID-19.

"We do not allow harmful misinformation, including medical misinformation, and we will remove it from the platform," the company said.

TikTok has taken other steps that it says are intended to direct users to trustworthy sources. This year, for example, the company cre-

ated an election center to help U.S. voters find voting places or information about candidates. □

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Ti West, Mia Goth dream up a technicolor horror in 'Pearl'

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Ti West had a wild idea.

It was year one of the pandemic and his 1970s-set slasher "X" was one of the few films allowed to go into production thanks to the low COVID-19 numbers in New Zealand. He'd been talking to his star Mia Goth — who in "X" plays dual roles of a young porn star, Maxine, and a murderous older woman, Pearl — and had a thought: What if they just made two movies while they were there?

The idea isn't an uncommon one for a major franchise based on known intellectual property, but for an independent horror that hadn't shot a single frame, it was bold, to say the least. It wouldn't be a sequel either, but a prequel about Pearl in her youth.

"I'm like, well, they're never going to go for THAT," West said last week at the Venice Film Festival. To his immense surprise, however, they did.

The result, "Pearl," which had its premiere in Venice and opens in theaters nationwide on Friday, drops in on its title character as a teen in 1918. She dreams of being in the movies but is tethered to her family's Texas farm, with her strict, German mother and ailing father, until she gets a morsel of hope in an upcoming audition for a dance company.

"I just had this interest in making, for lack of a bet-



Mia Goth, left, and director Ti West pose for portraits to promote the film "Pearl" during the 79th edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

ter term, a children's movie that has a more demented adult story to it," West said, seated beside Goth in a cottage at the Albergo Quattro Fontane on the Lido.

Goth, in a stylish and severe black corset ensemble, looks worlds away from the wide-eyed farmgirl with a pitchfork and a dream she portrays in "Pearl."

The film is a candy-colored ode to technicolor classics of Hollywood's Golden Age, from "The Wizard of Oz" to "Singin' in the Rain" but with carnage and blood. Touchstones ranged from Disney cartoons to Max Ophuls.

There was a "cheaper"

version that West was willing to make, which would have been shot in black and white, paying homage to the films of Ingmar Bergman, but A24 had just come off of "The Lighthouse" and there were a few other black and white projects floating around, and the studio encouraged the colorful version.

"There was an interesting movie there" he said. "Either way, it was going to be a rich cinematic pastiche. I said, 'I'm just offering a cheaper version.' And they were like, 'No, no, no. Make the better version.'"

Goth even got a co-credit as a screenwriter, which was a new experience for

the "Suspiria" and "High Life" actor.

"I'd never really considered writing scripts of my own," Goth said. "I didn't know if I would be able to help or contribute in any meaningful, worthwhile way."

But she accepted the challenge. For her writing sessions, Goth would set a timer and jot things down in a stream of consciousness that she'd then send to West to format.

"To me, she was just someone who was very ambitious and was likely just at the wrong place in the wrong time," Goth said. "I think had she had better opportunities presented to her, life would have turned

out very differently."

Working on the script ultimately helped her feel more connected to the words on the page, which came in handy for the big finale: An emotional seven-minute monologue from Pearl that West wanted to shoot in one take.

"That was our last day of shooting," Goth said. "It was a lot of pressure because I knew that Ti wanted to do it in that one take. I didn't want to mess up or to stumble over my lines. And I never went to drama school. It's like not studied. I didn't have like an approach to tackling something like that."

But she needn't have worried. They did it a few times and were finished before lunch, which is almost unheard of for 12 pages of script.

The films have even taken on a meta quality, allowing them to explore and comment on the way cinema affects people.

"There's the sort of ambition and the dreamlike quality of it and the wonder of it all. But what comes with that is also sometimes you're the person who doesn't get the part," West said. "When your life and dreams are attached to that, it's heavy, you know?"

The world of "X" and "Pearl" is expanding too. This week, A24 announced that there would be a third film, a finale, called "MaXXXine" set in 1985. □

Almodóvar pulls out of first English-language feature film



Spanish film director Pedro Almodóvar poses for photographers at the red carpet ahead the Goya Film Awards Ceremony in Malaga, southern Spain, Saturday, Jan. 25, 2020.

Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Oscar-winning director Pedro Almodóvar says that he is withdrawing from his first English-language feature, "A Manual for Cleaning Women" produced by and starring Cate Blanchett.

Almodóvar, 72, told entertainment news website Deadline Hollywood that he was unable to handle the commitment.

"It has been a very painful decision for me," Almodóvar told Deadline Hollywood. "I have dreamt of working with Cate for such a long time. Dirty Films

has been so generous with me this whole time and I was blinded by excitement, but unfortunately, I no longer feel able to fully realize this film."

A new director hasn't been announced yet by Blanchett's Dirty Films production company.

Almodóvar's brother and business partner confirmed the decision in a social media post on Wednesday.

"Pedro Almodóvar is leaving the 'A Manual for Cleaning Women' project, which will continue forward with Cate Blanchett," Agus-

tin Almodóvar, who helps his sibling run their El Deseo production company, wrote on Twitter

"A Manual for Cleaning Women" is an adaptation of the eponymous collection of short stories by American author Lucia Berlin.

Pedro Almodóvar won Oscar awards for best foreign language film for "All About My Mother" (1999) and for best original screenplay for "Talk To Her" (2002). He made his first short in English, "The Human Voice," featuring Tilda Swinton, in 2020. □

Chargers' Mack not satisfied after productive opener

By JOE REEDY
AP Sports Writer

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)

— Khalil Mack hasn't had much time to reflect on his Los Angeles Chargers debut, especially since they have a short week before facing the Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night.

After putting in a performance that most players would consider a career game, Mack was left with one impression after watching the tape of last Sunday's 24-19 victory over the Las Vegas Raiders.

Disappointment.

"It wasn't good enough. I left a lot of stuff out there and I have to get it corrected," Mack said on Tuesday before the Chargers conducted a walkthrough session.

Mack was the third player in franchise history to record three sacks in an opener since 1982, joining Shawne Merriman and Rodney Harrison. He also added six tackles, seven QB pressures and a stop in the run game for a 1-yard loss, the only run stuff of the game for the Chargers defense.

Mack and Joey Bosa — who had a combined 4 1/2 sacks and 16 QB pressures



Los Angeles Chargers linebacker Khalil Mack (52) celebrates defensive tackle Sebastian Joseph-Day (69) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Las Vegas Raiders in Inglewood, Calif., Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022.

Associated Press

in the opener — are looking to create the same type of havoc against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs. There were three plays against the Raiders where both Mack and Bosa were able to get into the backfield at the same time.

"It's great to talk ball on the sideline and just communicate about what we get and what each offensive tackle is giving us. So

to bounce ideas off each other throughout the game is good," Mack said.

Defensive coordinator Renaldo Hill said Mack's attention to the run game was the biggest surprise that stood out during training camp.

"You think of his pass rush. But he's talking to Joey about setting the tempo in the run game, how those two will work together," Hill

said.

Bosa has 2 1/2 sacks in six meetings against Mahomes, including 1 1/2 last year. Mack has faced Mahomes only once, a 2019 meeting in Chicago, but did record a sack.

While Mack is in a division with Carr, Mahomes and Russell Wilson as the quarterbacks, any sack is a special occasion.

"It's a game we get to play

and have fun. They're all equal. You want to sack them all," Mack said. "There are not going to be too many times you play against them."

Brandon Staley split last year's games against the Chiefs in his first season as Chargers coach. Los Angeles won a 30-24 meeting in Week 3 at Arrowhead Stadium last season before losing 34-28 in overtime in Week 15 at home.

With six new starters on defense this season — including Mack — Staley feels like he has a unit that can hold its own against Kansas City as the Chargers look for their first 2-0 start since 2012.

"You need a team to be able to defend an offense like this, and certainly a player like Patrick. Any time you are facing an offense that has weapons — running backs, receivers, tight ends — and that has an outstanding offensive line, you're going to need the same thing on defense, that same type of formula," Staley said. "What Khalil does is he gives you that chance up front, both in the run game and the pass rush, to be able to impact the game. □"

A'ja Wilson has Aces on brink of first WNBA championship

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

A'ja Wilson has been the face of the Las Vegas Aces franchise ever since she was picked No. 1 in 2018.

She has lived up to that billing on and off the court, and now she has the team one victory away from the organization's first WNBA championship. Las Vegas leads the best-of-five series 2-0 heading into Game 3 against the Sun on Thursday night in Connecticut.

"She gets it. She understands leadership," first-year Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "I was watching like everybody else was watching from afar. She's got beast skills. She's a beast human. She's a good one. I'll go to battle with her any day."

Wilson has been nearly unstoppable this season on

both ends of the court, winning both the WNBA's MVP and Defensive Player of the Year awards. It's the second MVP award for the 26-year-old forward, who has raised her game to another level in the playoffs. She is the first player in league history to have five straight games of 20 points and 10 rebounds in the WNBA playoffs.

"You can say it's a run but she's just done that all season," Aces teammate Kelsey Plum said. "I felt like she's been the most consistent player night in, night out offensively and defensively in this league and that's why she's MVP. It's tremendous."

It's not just on offense. In one sequence in Game 1 of the Finals, she blocked a shot on one end and then sprinted down the court to convert a layup on the

side.

"I think like we talk about her numbers offensively but she's holding it down in the paint defensively. Like a two-way player through and through," Aces guard Chelsea Gray said. "Rebounding, snatching her rebounds, blocking shots, having our back when I get beat. So like all that, and she's doing production on the offensive end."

Hammon has been riding her young star throughout the playoffs. She played all but four minutes in the semifinal win over Seattle that knocked out WNBA icon Sue Bird and Breanna Stewart. She has played 296 of the 325 minutes in the postseason so far, averaging 21.6 points and 10.8 rebounds with 24 blocks. She's also shooting nearly 58% from the field.



Las Vegas Aces forward A'ja Wilson (22) guards Connecticut Sun center Brianna Jones (42) during the second half in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball final playoff series Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

Beyond the stats, Wilson also has been more comfortable in a leadership role this season. She exhorted her teammates in Game 1 when the Sun were making a run. She cussed out Plum

before Game 2 to get her going.

"I have ways that I talk to my teammates to get them to understand where I need to be and where we need to be," Wilson said. □"

Kershaw, Dodgers win another NL West title, blank D-backs

PHOENIX (AP) — Last year, the Los Angeles Dodgers went all the way to the last day of the regular season, won a whopping 106 games, and still lost the NL West title to the San Francisco Giants.

This time, Clayton Kershaw and the Dodgers left no doubt.

Kershaw pitched seven dominant innings and the Dodgers won the NL West for the ninth time in 10 seasons, blanking the Arizona Diamondbacks 4-0 Tuesday night.

The Dodgers walked from the dugout when it was over to congratulate each other, much like they did after most of their wins in a runaway season, and posed for a team photo on the field.



Los Angeles Dodgers celebrate in the locker room after a 4-0 win in a baseball game against the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix, Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2022. The Dodgers clinched the National League West.

Associated Press

Then, it was back to the clubhouse at Chase Field for a spirited, spraying celebration. Clearly, the near-miss last year, beaten by the Giants by a game for

the division title, was on their minds.

"We weren't defending National League West champions. That was first on our list," manager Dave Roberts

said.

"It's something we should enjoy and be proud of, and get back to work (Wednesday), but it's quite the accomplishment," he said.

Freddie Freeman, Max Muncy and Joey Gallo homered as the Dodgers boosted the best record in the majors to 98-43. They lead second-place San Diego by a whopping 20 1/2 games.

Roberts' team will have plenty of time to get set for its 10th straight year in the postseason. The Dodgers' first playoff game is almost a month away, on Oct. 11. A crowd of 21,143, mostly clad in Dodger blue, watched the clincher. It's the Dodgers' 20th NL West crown since the majors split into divisions in 1969.

Kershaw (8-3) was sharp throughout, allowing just two singles and one walk while striking out five. He threw just 82 pitches, 55 for strikes. He lowered his season ERA to 2.44.

Kershaw missed three weeks with a back issue that has plagued him through the second half of his decorated career. Since then, he has started three times, allowing just three runs in 18 innings with 19 strikeouts.

"That three-week kind of hiatus gave him a chance to reset, and just to know that even tonight, there was some more in there. He'll make three or four more starts and be ready for the postseason," Roberts said.

Caleb Ferguson and Craig Kimbrel finished the combined three-hit shutout.

Gallo's home run, his 17th, cleared the center-field wall and gave the Dodgers a 2-0 lead in the second. The homer was measured at 438 feet. Muncy led off the inning with a single off Merrill Kelly — literally — as it bounced off the pitcher to the vacated left side of the infield.

Freeman led off the third inning with his 20th homer, a 442-foot drive to right-center into the swimming pool area.

Last year, the Dodgers beat the Giants in the NL Division Series, but lost to Freeman and the eventual champion Atlanta Braves in the NLCS.

Freeman saw how much more difficult it was for his current teammates to win with very little rest last October. He's played in every game this year and refused to consider clinching too early as a problem.

"There is no downside," Freeman said. "You come to the yard and expect to win every single day. If you don't have that expectation, I don't know what you're doing as a professional athlete."

Mookie Betts agreed. "You just keep playing," the All-Star right fielder said. "It's not like we're going to start throwing away at-bats or pitches. We just continue to play the same game." □

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